

MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 14, 2008 - MINUTES

In attendance: Council Members: Chairman Jacob Wagner, Jerry Johnson, Lori Marchak, Shelly Johnson, Sally Miller, Louise Brewster, Vicki DeBoer, Kathy Berg, Tom Peluso, and Commissioner Bill Murdock ; Advocacy Members: Dennis Cox (AMDD), Shelly Heilweil, and Dan Aune (GMHC); Staff: Glenda Howze. Also in attendance: Jan Bjork (new District Court Administrator), Patty Kent (WMMHC) and Tracy Velazquez.

Call to Order and Introductions - 12:04 PM. Chairman Wagner opened the meeting and allowed for introductions.

Public Comment - Ms. Velazquez stated that she went to the Interim Law and Justice Committee. She suggested that if anyone has ideas on improving corrections and mental health, now is the time to contribute those. This committee will discuss mental health courts and other programs. Mr. Peluso stated that he has been working with Mr. Aune on a Mental Health Court in Gallatin County. They are planning on a trip to Missoula to view their Mental Health Court.

Approval of Minutes (December 10, 2007) - Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Request for Letter of Support from the Mental Health Center for a Drop-In Center Mr. Aune explained the process, noting that the grant fund request goes to the Central Service Area Authority. He explained that the drop-in center would be located at the Medical Arts Complex with a lot of services provided. One goal is to target specific populations like have a "co-occurring" evening or hold an AA meeting there. The center will be run by consumers with the agenda driven by consumers. There will be peer specialists that have been trained to run the support groups and serve as advisors and mentors. It will be a collaborative effort that will serve to eliminate isolation. Ms. Marchak stated that she sees a strong need for this type of thing in our community and fully supports a support letter. Ms. Brewster suggested that perhaps in addition to an AA meeting they could have Alanon and/or Alateen meetings at the center also. Mr. Peluso made a motion that the Gallatin County Local Advisory Council on Mental Health approve the submission of a grant proposal to the Service Area Authority. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Aune clarified that he needs the motion to approve a letter of support for the Mental Health Center's application for grant funds. Mr. Peluso agreed to the amendment of the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Peluso asked that the minutes and the letter of support reflect the unanimous vote. Chairman Wagner asked an individual has to be a member, a client receiving services at the Mental Health Center, to use the drop-in center. Mr. Aune stated that they would not. They don't have to be a client of the MHC to attend, participate, etc.

Consideration of Request for Letter of Support from the Montana Mental Health Association for a Virtual Drop-In Center - Ms. Velazquez explained what the vision of the "virtual" drop in center would be and how it would apply to residents of Gallatin County. Bozeman itself wouldn't benefit as much, but rural Montana communities would benefit. Small communities can't sustain a drop in center financially or because of the stigma attached - many wouldn't attend. The virtual center will be phone based and available during the evenings from 5:30-9:30PM and Saturdays from 1PM-5PM. For part of the time it will be an open conference line that people can join and other times they will have specific "activities" available such as WRAP training, life skills, etc. The conference will be facilitated by a primary mental health provider and once a week they will have a program that is peer run such as a bi-polar group. The plan is to also have website available for an on-line community for users as well. Ms. Velazquez noted that she was recently in

Kansas and they have a similar set-up that is a warm line, run by consumers, and funded by the County. She plans to utilize consumers that have gone through WRAP and/or Peer to Peer Training to run the phone lines. They will also have a professional nearby if needed to step in and assist. This center will be statewide and Veterans would also be able to make use of it. The cost is approximately \$40,000 a year and Ms. Velazquez is asking the State to pay half and she'll work on donations to cover the other half. Mr. Peluso noted that the SAA Summit is Friday and perhaps she could make her pitch for this idea there as well. Mr. Peluso made a motion to support the proposal for a virtual drop in center in a like manner to the approval of the Mental Health Center's request. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Discussion took place about the two projects competing with each other. Mr. Johnson suggested that perhaps the Virtual Center could be called something else in order to avoid duplication or competition. Regardless they are competing for the same pool of money. Ms. Velazquez noted that if her proposal is not approved she will submit it for different grant consideration. Ms. Kent suggested that perhaps the virtual center could be partnered with another program to have a virtual component of a "regular" drop-in center. Ms. Velazquez stated that they are two separate things. Ms. Kent stated that they could still partnership while maintaining separate functions and this may make their proposal stronger. Commissioner Murdock stated that this is a good idea. He also inquired as to how the virtual center would serve residents of Gallatin County. Ms. Velazquez noted that people in West Yellowstone, Three Forks and Willow Creek may not drive to an actual center, but could make use of the virtual center just like other small, rural communities around the State. Ms. Miller suggested that there may need to be a link with the Mental Health Center for crisis situations without actually putting the program under the MHC. Ms. Brewster asked how they will track usage of the virtual center. Ms. Velazquez stated that it will be done simply as Ready Talk gives a report on usage. Ms. Brewster inquired as to how they could help someone in crisis if they've called from a private number. Ms. Velazquez explained that they will have 3-way calling ability to access a crisis line while the person is on the phone. The question was called. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Peluso again asked that the minutes and letter or support reflect a unanimous vote.

Report from "Priority Table" Sub-Committee and Continued Work on Priority Table - The subcommittee did not meet due to conflicting schedules and the holidays. The Montana Mental Health Association has moved and is now located in the old "Sports n Courts" building. Chairman Wagner explained to those in attendance not familiar with the priority table what the group has been working on and the purpose of the spread sheet. Mr. Aune provided an update on the campus work. He noted that they have a meeting with the hospital today. There have been some complicating factors and hopefully the meeting today will result in some answers and a plan for when construction can begin. Discussion took place regarding the most economic use of the property as well as a policy that it will only be used for behavioral health facilities. Mr. Aune, Mr. Peluso and others have been involved in the rule making for the BHIF and a final draft should be out this month. Commissioner Murdock stated that he recently talked to John Nordwick (CEO of Bozeman Deaconess Hospital) and he told him that everything is ready to go as far as land use. Commissioner Murdock stated that the County Commissioners will need to reconfirm the support of one-million dollar loan due to a change in Commissioners since the original offer. Mr. Aune stated that the re-confirmation took place in June at the budget meetings.

Ms. Velazquez stated that she visited with Steve Gibson about children's behavioral health. This is primarily driven by juvenile justice. They are talking about having a facility where there is a university. She stated that it was questioned whether or not there would be enough room on the 5 acres for this type of facility. This project would be 4-5 years down the road. Mr. Aune stated that part of the discussions today will be about the best use of the land and also who owns the land. Ms. DeBoer stated that there is no public facility for children in Montana. There is no place to put them. Therefore we end up having to pay

for them to be housed in another state's facility. SED children are affecting our community and there is no place to put them. Mr. Peluso relayed a story about a Gallatin County family with a mentally ill son who is now in the criminal justice system. This family was presented with a \$30,000 a month bill for his "care." If a facility is built, the Department of Corrections could then contract with providers for service (and to build the facility), contract to pay for beds which will guarantee payment of the debt service.

(9) Training of First Responders: Mr. Peluso stated that he has the cards made for first responders to carry. They have also supplied CD's with information regarding this project throughout the region to LAC's. Sheriff Cashell has sent people to CIT training and the LEEP program. The Sheriff wants the County Attorney's office to look at the cards before he has his officers carry them. Ms. Velazquez stated that she had a meeting with NAMI and MAP regarding day training at the Law Enforcement Academy. They are going to have a trial run in Havre. They may then take it all over the State as a mini-CIT. The Havre LAC asked for the training and ours could as well. Mr. Peluso also gave an update on the progress with 72-hour presumptive eligibility. AMDD is continuing to work on this and has hired four additional psychiatrists to assist with this. Mr. Aune stated that he has met with the Sheriff's Office and Lt. Wade. They are going to work together and do things like ride-alongs to educate each other. This will also open up a viable source for referrals. In June or July two officers and two Mental Health Center staff will go to CIT training. This should help bolster knowledge and working together. Chairman Wagner stated that he talked to one officer who stated that he has to recertify on his weapon, but only has 2 hours of training on mental health for his career.

(12) Chairman Wagner reported that Paul Thomas came to a meeting a few months ago and reported on his work on a homeless shelter. The LAC is supporting him and his efforts. He did get a building near K-Mart, 1000 square feet. It was suggested that Mr. Thomas be invited to the February meeting for an update. Mr. Peluso stated that the shelter should be open within 30 days. Mr. Aune stated that they are going to have a $\frac{1}{2}$ time person devoted to homeless care and there may be some money from the Recovery Grant that could be used for homeless/mentally ill. Ms. Marchak stated that the group should set a goal to finish updating the priority table by next month. Ms. Velazquez agreed that the subcommittee will meet and have a report.

Agency Reports - ADSGC: Ms. Johnson reported that ADSGC signed a contract last week for a residential treatment center. It will open here in Bozeman for up to 8 individuals (all male). The plan is to have it open mid-February and will be a level 3.1 - transitional housing. There are 7 new facilities being put in place around the state. Mr. Aune asked her to describe the person that will qualify to stay in our facility. This person may be someone who is in intensive outpatient treatment right now, low-income, or someone coming out of a meth facility, DOC referrals, or someone coming out of MCDC. Treatment will be provided at ADSGC. It is not a stabilization facility and the average stay will be 6-9 months. The current funding is for 2 years. The facility will not be staffed 24-7 but will have a very sophisticated security system.

KMA: Vickie reported that everything is status quo at this time. She is attending a United Way training as their parent support person fits into the United Way goals. The County portion of funding will be completely obligated soon with an array of services provided. Referrals are coming in as word is spread about the program. She is waiting to hear from someone about West Yellowstone services.

West Yellowstone Services Update: Mr. Aune reported that they are using churches for providing services and ended up going at the same time as another provider. They are planning a meeting in March with various community leaders.

Other: Mr. Peluso stated that there is a SAA summit this Friday, 10AM - 3PM at the Wingate. They will be discussing proposals for the Executive Planning Process (EPP). He urged everyone to work on 2 or 3 vital

proposals to bring to the meeting on Friday. Ms. Miller noted that NAMI has recently rolled out a VA website as well - name.org/veterans. Ms. Brewster stated that there is a peer to peer support group in process and they have a website - calm4us.org. Mr. Aune stated that the President of CALM will work out of the MHC space. (Consumers Asserting Leadership in Montana)

AMDD: Mr. Cox reported that the most recent census at the state hospital was 222. Residents are sleeping on cots and staff is overwhelmed. Many of the beds are emergency detention. They are continuing to work hard to get the 72-hour program underway. They are also hiring someone to man the suicide prevention funds that were approved - \$800,000 over 2 years. Part of this will be a state hotline # for suicide and there will be a line similar to 211 that has all statewide resources in a database available immediately for the caller.

Agenda for February Meeting - Ms. Marchak asked that there be an item regarding Mental Wellness and Prevention on the next agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM